

Minutes of the Combined Health & Human Services Committee/Board Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 2004

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Duane Stamsta (Chair), Hank Carlson, Joe Griffin, Andy Kallin, Bill Kramer; **Absent:** Jim Jeskewitz, Sandy Wolff

Board Members Present: Citizen Members Dennis Farrell (Chair), Dick Wutt, Dr. John Guy, Mike O'Brien and Supervisors Duane Paulson, Vera Stroud, Duane Stamsta and Joe Griffin; **Absent:** JoAnn Weidmann

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisory Mark Mader, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Intake and Support Services Division Manager Antwayne Robertson, Adolescent and Family Services Division Manager Pat Voss, Budget Analyst Andy Thelke, W-2 Operations Manager Jane Batha, Workforce Development Center Operations Manager Mike Mortell, and Journal Sentinel Reporter Scott Williams

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes of May 27, 2004

Andy Kallin pointed out one correction to the May 27, 2004 minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee. On Page 3, second paragraph, 4th line from the bottom should read 39.1 in 2003 and not 2002.

MOTION: Kallin moved, seconded by Carlson to approve the minutes of May 27, 2004 with the changes noted. Motion carried 5-0.

Legislative Update

Mark Mader reported that there was a TABOR meeting yesterday at MATC. Joe Griffin attended the meeting and he stated that he was very disappointed at the turnout. There were only about 20 people in attendance.

Announcements

Don Maurer introduced Antwayne Robertson, our new Health & Human Services Manager for the Intake and Support Services Division.

Executive Committee Report

Duane Stamsta reported that the Executive Committee met on June 7, 2004 and discussed issues with Senator Mary Lazich. They spoke about Tabor and Senator Lazich seems to think there was a chance it would not make it through this session but was rather noncommittal on her part. They approved an ordinance for the Waukesha County UW Extension to accept a grant from Roundy's for costs involved in expanding Farmer's Markets collections of excess product and establishing a garden for low-income youth. Also discussed was the County Board Office

Retention Schedule which is not yet resolved. The discussion centered around e-mails and how long they should be kept. All e-mails to County Board Supervisors would be forwarded to Lee Esler and would become part of the County Board Office. Lee would become the repository.

Meeting Approvals

Hank Carlson's attendance at the Joint Conference Committee was approved. All voted and the motion carried.

Members were asked if they needed approval for the Caregivers Conference this Friday, June 11th at the County Inn. There were no responses at this time.

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2004

MOTION: Wutt moved, seconded by Griffin to approve the minutes of April 22, 2004. Motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2004

MOTION: Wutt moved, seconded by Guy to approve the minutes of May 4, 2004. Motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2004

MOTION: Paulson moved, seconded by Guy to approve the minutes of May 11, 2004. Motion carried 8-0.

Announcements

Dennis Farrell announced that the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee will hold its annual picnic on July 14, 2004. All members of the Board and Committee are invited to attend. It will take place at either a CBRF or park in Menomonee Falls. The final details will be available in the next week or so.

COMBINED AGENDA ITEMS

W-2 Program Orientation and Status Update

Don Maurer introduced Jane Batha, The ACS/W-2 Operations Manager. Jane began her presentation with a brief history. The W-2 program began in Wisconsin in 1997 and consists of Wisconsin Works and Employment Related Programs contracted with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Two of the Related Programs include Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) Program and Children First. The funding for this program is from the state's federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) allocation. Under Wisconsin Works families are eligible if they are the custodial parents of minor dependent children with gross incomes at or below 115% of the federal poverty level (\$18,024 for a family of three). W-2 is temporary assistance and all eligible families are required to find unsubsidized employment or work in subsidized employment (Community Service Jobs) or Transitional Jobs (W-2T). Cash Assistance caseloads have shrunk from over 4000 in the days of AFDC and they presently have 85 W-2 cases. Jane explained that almost everyone on W-2 is also receiving Medical Assistance

and food stamps. Jane distributed a couple of handouts with caseload figures through May 2004 for the W-2 program and Children First and also dollar amounts for W-2.

Jane reported that the State of Wisconsin has 11 performance standards that the W-2 program contractor must meet in order to re-contract for the next contract cycle. This process is called Right of First Selection. ACS has always met their right of first selection. In 2003 they had a 48.5% entered employment rate with a 180-day retention of 70%. Children First is a court order program to provide employment and training for non-custodial parents who are not paying their child support. In 2003 there were 328 enrollments and of those, 271 were placed at an average full time starting wage of \$10.15 per hour. Retention after four months was 63%.

Jane answered questions from various members of the board and committee which included the length of transition programs which should only be 24 months at the most unless there's a barrier, i.e. learning disability, etc. What qualifies someone for food stamps – for a single person a gross income of \$1,300 per month and they must provide verification of current income. She explained that there are different income levels for MA and food stamps eligibility. A single individual under the age of 65 would not be eligible for MA. MA is only for low-income working families with children, the elderly and the disabled. Subsidized child care family gross income is 185% of the federal poverty level. Don Maurer will get a copy of the poverty level figures and provide to the board and committee. We have approximately 8,000 unduplicated cases, which is about 2% of the population in Waukesha County. Jane went over the figures on the Waukesha County W-2 Program handout comparing figures for the 2002 – 2003 calendar year and the 2004-2005 calendar year. Community Reinvestment was used for rent assistance but this funding does not exist in ACS' 2004-2005 budget, along with no interest job access loans which were used to help people purchase cars to get to and from work. The Ways to Work program, presented earlier this year, could address the job access loan area but that has not been appropriated by Congress at this time. Jane explained that every contract year they have had less and less to work with. All W-2 agencies throughout the state, with the exception of about 10, are running in the red for benefit allocation.

Presentation of Analysis and Plan Regarding the Economic Assistance Programs and the Workforce Development Center

Don Maurer introduced Mike Mortell, Operations Manager for the Workforce Development Center. A handout giving a status review regarding the Workforce Development Center and the Economic Assistance Program was provided to all. Don reviewed the background information from 1995 when the county put in \$500,000 to build the center, the relocation of Economic Support staff to the WDC to provide a one-stop shop concept, the beginning of W-2 in 1997 and in 2002 when the state shifted most Economic Support Services back to the county, but keeping W-2 and Child Care eligibility determination with the W-2 agencies. In 2004, the state reduced the County's income maintenance allocation by \$150,000 and by \$60,000 in 2005, in addition to 40% reductions to the W-2 agencies. As a result ACS is no longer able to fund county operational and rent costs as they had previously done. The 2004 budget includes a provision to move the Workforce Development Center Economic Support staff back to the Human Services Center to reduce operational expenses. Meanwhile, caseloads are at an all time high. Don also reported that the 2004 Health & Human Services budget includes \$45,000 fund balance to be matched by \$45,000 federal funds toward the relocation expenses of WDC Economic Support

staff to the Human Services Center to reduce operational costs. However, the 2004 budget included a provision that the proposed move be reviewed by the Health & Human Services Committee prior to actual implementation.

The present status is that the “official” 2005 IM allocation is not yet known, but the best information we have at this time is that the additional \$60,000 reduction will occur. Don stated that one of the reasons for the higher caseload was the beginning of Badgercare, which is insurance for those working families without health care. It is a form of medical assistance with premiums based on your income. There was also discussion regarding the fines that must be paid to the state for errors. For every \$1.00 in errors we make, there is a potential \$92.00 sanctions. It is a federal sanction. If the Economic Support staff move back to Health & Human Services, we would also lose those staff members that are employed by the Center but who support our staff. Don pointed out that because of the high caseload to worker ratio (300:1), staff are very stressed and between 1998 and 2000 we had a lot of staff turnover. Presently, staff are straining to return phone calls in three days and customer complaints are increasing. High caseloads also present increased likelihood of errors. Milwaukee, Dane and Rock counties have had to pay sizeable sanctions already. Dane and LaCrosse counties are piloting a call center to handle those calls requesting address and income changes. The State promised to implement a statewide call center, but has not yet done so. This would eliminate some of the calls to caseworkers.

Andy Kallin asked if there was some way of other WDC employees lightening the load for those caseworkers. Mike Mortell was asked to respond and stated that the original staff of 17 has been lowered and with the state lowering their funding, there is no money to hire additional staff. At one time they had 4 people entering job orders, now they have 1.5. The people who are out there applying for food stamps are the people we need in the workforce. We can't afford to have a worker not productive and there would be approximately a two week lag time if a person has to go to one area for food stamps and another area for job service. Don Maurer noted that there is presently discussion occurring between the County's Department of Administration and WCTC regarding future leases and whether this move might be avoided, but it will be difficult to accomplish given the financial picture and decreased state funding.

Overview of Youth Aids Program and Funding

Pat Voss, Manager of the Adolescent and Family Division, gave an overview of the Youth Aids Program which was created in 1980 in response to the conclusion that in a system where the state paid for all juvenile security correction costs, it was an incentive for counties to place more children in state secure facilities. Youth Aids uses a formula to allocate dollars to counties that allows them to create community alternatives in order to avoid correction placement costs. Waukesha County has created viable programs as alternatives to secure correctional placements for juvenile offenders. Some examples of these programs include: home detention, juvenile restitution, intensive supervision, intensive in-home treatment teams, community service, victim-offender mediation, day treatment and alternative school programs, and others. These programs were developed with stakeholders, the most important of which is the Juvenile Court Judges who make the decisions regarding incarceration vs. alternatives. Waukesha County has consistently had the lowest rate of any county in the state based on the number of juveniles placed in institutions. As part of Pat's presentation he handed out a chart of placements from 1983

through 2003. Before 1983 it wasn't unusual to place 40 – 50 juvenile corrections in a year. We're keeping families together and maintaining offenders in the community in a safe fashion without having to place them in costly institutional care. There was also a chart comparing Waukesha County 2002 Part I arrests to other counties in the area. While Waukesha County had 917 Part I arrests in 2002 which is on the upper end, we have the lowest placement rate. Our judges have a lot of faith in our program and tend to listen to the workers' recommendations. While the behavior of many kids that go into corrections stabilizes, we often see a return of that behavior or more serious problems upon release. We keep track of those juveniles released for up to 36 months.

In 1980 the basic allocation was developed by a three factor formula of the statewide juvenile arrests and secure placements at that time. That total allocation was \$82 million, but over time it went up to \$85 million. For many counties youth aids has become inadequate in meeting their juvenile justice costs. In 1999 Act 9 was passed and an additional \$4 million was added to youth aids. In 2001 Act 16 added another \$2 million. This allocation was to be split among all 72 counties. Because our placements are down, we are adversely affected by our success. There were few community programs in the early 80's to keep these juveniles out corrections. We want to see relief on the corrections side of the formula so we aren't forced to decrease our effective community programs.

In working on our upcoming budget, we cannot always predict what the impact will be, i.e. if three kids go on a rampage one weekend, this can drive our budget costs way high. Don Maurer noted the presence of three residential treatment centers in Waukesha County taking placements from other state. If one of these children goes on a crime spree and it's serious enough that our District Attorney's petition the case here, we are responsible for the correctional placement. Minnesota is probably the leader in juvenile and adult restorative justice. Minnesota has a lot more community services, i.e. electronic monitoring, restitution programs, victim witness program and a community based court coming up with sentences for offenders. The National Center for Restorative Justice is located at the University of Minnesota. Their caseloads are significantly lower, which permits effective intervention.

Discuss and Consider a Motion to Prepare a Resolution to Raise Cigarette Taxes for Health Care Initiative

Vera Stroud passed around handouts on cigarette consumption which included statistics on consumption, sales, and tobacco related deaths. Vera also presented a "draft" of a resolution to raise the price of a pack of cigarettes by an additional \$1 suggesting that these new tax dollars be placed in a segregated fund for use in health care initiatives. This resolution, if passed by the County Board will be referred to WCA for their consideration as an addition to their platform. The County Board staff will work with Supervisor Stroud in the drafting of this resolution for consideration by the various Board Committees.

MOTION: On behalf of the Health & Human Services Board, Dick Wutt made a motion seconded by Mike O'Brien to move forward to prepare a resolution to raise cigarette taxes for a health care initiative. All voted and the motion carried 8-0.

MOTION: On behalf of the Health & Human Services Committee, Hank Carlson made a motion, seconded by Joe Griffin to support the consideration of a resolution and to further discuss this at the next Health & Human Services Committee. Andy Kallin and Bill Kramer are opposed to any additional taxes. All voted and the motion carried 3-2.

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Review Board Membership List and Update

A membership list of the Health & Human Services Board members was passed out for review. Supervisors asked that their e-mail addresses be changed to reflect their county e-mail addresses rather than their personal addresses.

Adjournment

MOTION: Carlson made a motion seconded by Kallin to adjourn the meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee. Motion carried.

MOTION: Wutt made a motion seconded by Guy to adjourn the meeting of the Health & Human Services Board. Motion carried.

Recorded by Kathy Leach, Health & Human Services Dept.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Kallin
Secretary